U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC TRADE REGULATORY AUDIT DIVISION

Focused Assessment Program



October 2002

Documents Required for a Focused Assessment

NOTE: These documents supersede the Focused Assessment Program documents dated October 31, 2001.

INTRODUCTION

The passage of the Customs Modernization Act (Mod Act) in 1993 provided the framework for a partnership between the importing public and Customs. Under the Mod Act, Customs and the importer share the responsibility for compliance with trade laws and regulations. The importer is responsible for declaring the value, classification, and rate of duty applicable to entered merchandise, and Customs is responsible for informing the importer of its rights and responsibilities under the law.

Customs is committed to providing the importer with all the information needed to be in compliance with Customs laws and regulations. To fulfill this commitment, Customs is making available on its Web site (www.customs.gov) the documents commonly referred to as the FA Kit. These documents are the same handbooks, audit program, sampling plans, and guidelines that regulatory auditors and other Customs specialists on a Focused Assessment (FA) team use to conduct a Pre-Assessment Survey (PAS), Assessment Compliance Testing (ACT), and FA follow-up. Providing the FA Kit to the trade is intended to help importers prepare for a Focused Assessment and conduct an assessment of their own Customs systems.

Focused Assessment Program Table of Contents

Exhibit	Subject
1	Introduction
2A 2B 2C 2D 2E	General Audit Guidance Internal Control Questionnaire for Focused Assessments Electronic Data Processing (EDP) Questionnaire for Focused Assessments Pre-Assessment Survey (PAS) Audit Program Assessment Compliance Testing (ACT) Audit Program Focused Assessment Follow-up Audit Program
3A 3B 3C 3D 3E 3F 3G 3H 3I 3J	Specific Audit Guidance Guidance for Using Risk Exposure to Determine Review Areas Consideration of Internal Control in a Customs Compliance Audit Internal Control Summary by Component Internal Control Management and Evaluation Tool Guidance for the Internal Control Interviewing Process Risk Opinion under Focused Assessments Timely Completion and Resolution of Issues of Focused Assessments Resolving "Gray Areas" of Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) Classification Errors Disclosed to Customs Treatment of Ultimate Consignee Transactions in a Focused Assessment
4A 4B 4C 4D 4E 4F 4G 4H 4I	Trade Guidance Example of Internal Control Manual Common Importer Errors Identified during Assessments and Audits Prior Disclosures during a Focused Assessment Timely Completion and Resolution of Issues of Focused Assessments (see Exhibit 3G above) Compliance Improvement Plan Framework A Guide for Supporting Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Claims Account Profiles (under development) Internal Control Management and Evaluation Tool (see Exhibit 3D above) Importer Quantification
5A 5B 5C 5D 5E 5F 5G 5H	PAS Internal Controls Technical Guides PAS Internal Control Overview Transaction Value – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide Computed Value – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide Classification – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide HTSUS 9801.00.10 – U.S. Goods Returned – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide HTSUS 9802.00.40 and HTSUS 9802.00.50 – Articles Exported for Repairs and Alterations – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide HTSUS 9802.00.60 – Metal Articles Previously Exported for Processing – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide HTSUS 9802.00.80 – U.S. Articles Assembled Abroad – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide HTSUS 9802.00.90 – U.S. Formed and Cut Fabric Assembled in Mexico – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide

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5J	Antidumping Duties and Countervailing Duties – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5K-1	Foreign Trade Zones – Manufacturing – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5K-2	Foreign Trade Zones – Petroleum – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5L	Transshipment – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5M	Generalized System of Preferences – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5N	Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act and Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
50	Andean Trade Preference Act – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5P	Products of Insular Possessions – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5Q	Israel Free Trade Area – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5R	African Growth and Opportunity Act – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5S	Quantity – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5T	Reconciliation – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5U	Intellectual Property Rights – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide
5V	Free Trade of the Americas (FTAA) – PAS Internal Control Technical Guide (will be developed when Act is passed)
	Assessment Compliance Testing (ACT) – Sampling
6A	Sampling Technical Guide
6A Appendix I	Sampling Steps
6A Appendix II	Sampling Methodology Diagrams
6A Appendix III	FA Sampling Methodology Table
6A Appendix IV	Sampling Plans
6A Appendix V	Examples Report Tables
6A Appendix VI	Glossary of Sampling Terms
6A Appendix VII	Reading List for audit Sampling